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Letter No. 2327

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

August 27, 1987

**IMPORTS FOR
JUNE**

U.S. agricultural imports for June totaled \$1 billion 77 million, up 10 percent from June 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Major contributors to the increase were fruits and vegetables, beef and veal, and fruit juices. June's figures bring the Oct.-June agricultural import total to \$15 billion 800 million, virtually unchanged from last year. The present USDA import forecast for fiscal 1987 stands at \$20 billion, down 5 percent from last year.

**EXPORT VOLUME
FOR JUNE**

The export volume of agricultural commodities and products for June 1987 totaled 10 million tons, up 48 percent from the 6 million 800 thousand tons exported during June 1986, but down 3 percent from May 1987 levels. June agricultural export value totaled \$2 billion 70 million, up \$388 million or 23 percent over June 1986, but down 5 percent from May 1987 levels. Grain and feed sales continued strong, accounting for much of the year-to-year increase. However, significant gains also were registered in exports of raw cotton and soybeans as well as a number of high-value products such as dairy products, cattle hides, poultry, beef, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

**1988 WHEAT
PROGRAM**

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced that the 1988 wheat program signup will extend from Oct. 19 through April 1, 1988. Signup dates for the remaining 1988 commodity programs--feed grains, upland and extra long staple cotton and rice--will be announced later. However, these signups will also end April 1, 1988. For details, check with the local office of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

**FOREIGN COARSE
GRAIN PRODUCTION**

Foreign coarse grain production for 1987/88 is expected to rise 7 million tons, or 1 percent, to a second consecutive record, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Major exporters are projected to increase production 840,000 tons, but this will be 4 million tons below 1985/86. Production in the major importing countries likely will be up nearly 4 million tons. The larger overall production, plus a 4-million-ton increase in carryover stocks, represents an overall gain of 11 million, for a record 650-million-ton foreign coarse grain supply in 1987/88. The foreign corn supply, 294 million tons, represents 45 percent of the foreign coarse grain supply for 1987/88.

BICENTENNIAL KICKOFF

Sec'y of Agric. Richard Lyng launched a nationwide search for farm families whose families have owned their farms for at least 200 years. He did it by honoring three Mid-Atlantic families at a special Bicentennial ceremony at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm just outside Washington, D.C. in Virginia. The farm families honored were: Robert Carter Wellford III, Richmond County, Virginia, 4,000 acres put together in the 1730's; John Woodkeeper Dukes, New Castle County, Delaware, an original 100 acres (plus additional acreage over time) purchased in 1730; and Francis E. Wright, Sussex County, Delaware, and both Caroline and Dorchester Counties, Maryland, 1500 acres granted by the King of England in 1732.

FOOD FOR OIL

Sec'y of Agric. Richard Lyng announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy have formally agreed to pursue opportunities to trade surplus U.S. agricultural commodities for crude oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The departments have reviewed and identified a group of countries that produce crude oil that meets the specifications of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and that are experiencing food and currency reserve shortages.

CCC ADDS PROVISION FOR LOANS

Producers of 1987 crop high moisture corn and sorghum who wish to obtain Commodity Credit Corporation loans when the commodity is stored on the farm may present a certified scale ticket to establish quantity when applying for their loan, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The ticket must come from an acceptable scale, be signed by an approved weighman and contain, at the minimum, gross and tare weights, date and signature of person who weighed the commodity. The ticket must be presented to the county ASCS office when the loan application is made.

DOMESTIC FEED GRAIN SUPPLY

The domestic feed grain supply for 1987/88 will total about 374 million tons, a drop of 5 million from 1986/87, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Disappearance in 1986/87 is forecast at 226 million tons, up 20 million from 1985/86. Since the total supply for 1986/87 exceeded last year's by almost 47 million tons, carryover stocks will rise 27 million to a record 154 million tons. The increase in carryover stocks will offset most of this year's production decline.

U.S. FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION LOWERED

This year's feed grain production is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 220 million metric tons, a drop of 32 million or 13 percent from last year. An estimated 87 million 500 thousand acres will be harvested this year, down about 14 percent from last year's 102 million acres. The decline is partly offset by a record yield of $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre, up a little over 1 percent from last year. Both corn and sorghum yields will set records this year, barley yield will rise but not to a record, and oats yield is forecast down 2.1 bushels an acre from last year.

DAIRY TERMINATION PROGRAM CONTINUES

An estimated 10,900 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending Aug. 8 as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Since the program began on April 1, 1986, an estimated 1,175,200 head have been slaughtered.

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

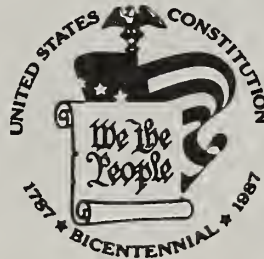
HONG KONG - NEW MARKET FOR U.S. EXPORTS...Hong Kong is a large importer of agricultural products, and a staging base for Chinese trade. Michael Humphrey with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service takes a look at Hong Kong as a market for U.S. agriculture. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (266)

AUTOMATIC LIGHTNING DETECTION SYSTEM...Steve German, project manager of the "Automatic Lightning Detection System" or ALDS, talks about research work being conducted in Boise, Idaho, to detect and possibly prevent forest fires. Vic Powell interviews. (267)

ARS RESEARCH FEATURES...Scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service are now using micro-injection techniques for genetic engineering and studying ways to make chickens more disease resistant. Will Pemble reports. (268)

SELF-DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN RURAL AREAS...In response to increased productivity of agriculture and its decline in farm related jobs, rural areas have traditionally mounted a business recruitment program to bring employment to a region. USDA economist Norman Reid examines this self-development strategy. Vic Powell interviews. (269)

ALTERNATIVE FARMING OPPORTUNITIES...Luther Whitaker with USDA's Extension Service in Tennessee, describes how Extension is working with farmers and farm groups to establish a marketing cooperative as an alternative to current farming practices. Vic Powell interviews. (270)



FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1578...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) "A Family Celebration" USDA honors Bicentennial farm families whose farms have been under the same farm ownership for 200 years. Gary Crawford reports on the ceremony, interviewing the honorees as well as Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1567...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Raisin success; Surgical spraying; China market; Animal export problems.

CONSUMER TIME #1057...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Cutting down on sweets; A balanced diet; Vegetarian diets; Sugar consumption; Financial priorities.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Mon, Aug. 31, Vegetables; Tues, Sept. 1, Weekly crop and weather; Fri, Sept. 4, Fruit. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

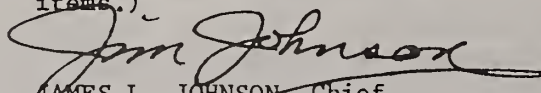
OFF MIKE

Dix Harper (WRAL-TV/Tobacco Net, Raleigh, NC) zinged us a good one this week. He returned our August 13 Farm Broadcasters Letter with the metered mail imprint. He circled the date on the imprint...and well he should have. The date showed the newsletter had been mailed September 28! Our mail unit is a little bewildered to know how that could have happened. Dix' comment was, "Things are further ahead in Washington, D.C. than any of us expected." He really knows how to hurt a guy ... Wey Simpson (KAQQ, Spokane, WA) called to say he will have a new address and phone number after Sept. 15. KAQQ is moving to new quarters. The new address is E. 300 Third Ave, zip code 99202. And the phone number will be 509-459-9800 ... Roger Strom called to say he's looking to get back into farm broadcasting. He's had 15 years broadcasting experience, with 7 of those in farm broadcasting. His most recent station before leaving for a try at a private venture was KXEL, Waterloo, IA. His phone number is 612-481-8430 ... Bob Bosold (WAXX, Eau Claire, WI) is at it

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again...writing interesting stuff in his newsletter. The latest item concerns a celebrity burro race. He reports, "It sure helps to have long legs, so a person never gets too far from the ground on one of those things. I did manage to pick a mount that didn't always agree with me, so we did part company a couple of times during the race." But he also reports he came in second. Reminds us of a time we tried to play donkey baseball. Fun!! ... We gleaned the following from a list of Ten Proverbs for Management by Ralph Siu. One for planning says, "Do not try to catch two frogs with one hand." And one for operations says, "Do no insult the crocodile until you have crossed the river." (This is what happens when you run short of items.)


JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief,
Radio and Television Division